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English Law, some as insertions in the text and others as notes or appendices. He has also explained in the notes a few of the technical terms employed in the narrative and he has appended to each chapter a list of "recommended readings" on the topics there treated. The book should be of service to those who wish to make their first acquaintance with English constitutional or legal history and of special convenience for use by classes engaged in the introductory study of either subject.

The work of the editor has been confined within such narrow limits that it calls for little comment. His choice of extracts to supplement the text appears to be based generally on a sound judgment of historical values and his numerous references to books for more extensive reading display a wide knowledge of the literature of the subject. Yet many good authorities are omitted and poor ones are sometimes included. Citations from the Anglo-Saxon laws, for example, are made from Thorpe's translation and not from Liebermann's; Taswell-Langmead's text-book is recommended frequently for reading on the mediaeval period, while White's excellent volume is not mentioned. His text, with the exception of a few typographical errors of minor importance, is an accurate reproduction, though the same may not be said of the quotations in the foot-notes (*e.g.*, pp. 17, 22).

W. E. LUNT.

MICHELS, ROBERT. *Political Parties*. (Trans. by Eden and Cedar Paul.) Pp. ix, 416. Price, \$3.50. New York: Hearst's International Library Company, 1915.

Political Parties is the title and *A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Democracy* the subtitle of a rather informing book by Robert Michels, Professor of Political Economy and Statistics of the University of Basle. The professor clearly has a thesis to prove and marshals his facts to prove it. This thesis is, as indicated in the subtitle, that the tendencies of democracy are toward oligarchy; or, to put it more concretely, that not only is socialism impossible, but that even a socialistic policy is impossible. The facts, arguments, and ideas that the author brings to his work are significant whether or not mistaken.

The major premises in his argument are that leaders are indispensable in democracies and in all democratic organizations as in social life itself, and that the inevitable tendency is for all leaders to assert autocratic control. As a corollary of these main premises is the doctrine that "organization, based as it is upon the principle of least effort, that is to say upon the greatest possible economy of energy, is the weapon of the strong." Organization means oligarchy whether it be the oligarchy of popularly chosen leaders or the oligarchy of a politically dominant minority. From out of this inevitable oligarchy come the decisions we erroneously refer to, according to our author, as the judgments of the masses, public opinion, or the will of the state.

"The modern party," he says, "is a fighting organization in the political sense of the term, and must as such conform to the laws of tactics. Now the first article of these laws is facility of mobilization." Centralization guarantees results.

"Reduced to its most concise expression, the fundamental sociological law of political parties (the term "political" being here used in its most comprehensive significance) may be formulated in the following terms: 'It is an organization

which gives birth to the dominion of the elected over the electors, of the mandatories over the mandators, of the delegates over the delegators. Who says organization, says oligarchy.'"

It is worthy of note, however, that many of the same arguments used by Professor Michels can be used just as effectively to prove the possibility of efficient democracy. The corner-stone of any democracy must be the ascendancy of leaders—leaders, to be sure, in whom the respective groups have confidence. Through such choice of leaders, democracy is transferred into a government by the best, intellectually and morally.

The four hundred pages of the book are closely crowded with many social facts, pertaining to the actual working out of such democratic organizations as the labor unions and socialist parties of the Continent, particularly of Germany, Italy and France. All his laboratory material the author draws from these labor and socialistic organizations. Indeed, the book as a whole may be considered as an attempt to make a cross-section study of the actual social forces at work in the organization, three million strong, of the socialist party of Germany. The author makes his study from a hypercritical point of view, and the spirit of his book is invidious. This is its chief defect. But students of social psychology or students of the forces really at work in actual government will find the volume illuminating and charged in every page with human interest and informing facts.

CLYDE LYNDON KING.

University of Pennsylvania.

NOLEN, JOHN (Ed. by). *City Planning*. Pp. xxvi, 447. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

The literature dealing with city planning has been accumulating rapidly in this country. The present book contains chapters written by some of the best known and most experienced city planners and is a sort of a synthetic presentation of the experience and current opinion on the subject that has gained the widest acceptance in recent years. While as a text-book for classroom use it lacks orderliness and clear-cut segregation of subjects, each author has dealt with his subject in a manner that cannot fail to give to the most uninitiated a clear conception of the meaning and function of city planning.

Considering the difficulties in the way of securing a consistent whole in so composite a work as *City Planning* is, remarkable unity and uniformity have been attained. The bibliographies at the end of each chapter and the general bibliography at the end of the book deserve special attention, as they include the most recent and best publications available in this country. References to the best foreign literature, however, are almost wholly lacking.

C. A.

ORTH, SAMUEL P. *Readings on the Relation of Government to Property and Industry*. Pp. viii, 664. Price, \$2.25. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1915.

These readings are grouped in such a way as to show the trend of opinion, both scientific and popular, on such questions as the police power and its gradual expansion, the control over corporations, the regulation of property by commis-